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PATENT

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Application No. 09/881,052

respectfully submit that it is not the specific structural connection that is being claimed, and thus, the specific structural connection need not be shown.

With respect to the plurality of dispensing nozzles divided into first and second sets of nozzles, FIG. 4 schematically illustrates sets of nozzles, each set configured to deliver liquid to a particular set of reaction vessels, namely, a particular column of wells 41 in microtiter plate 42. Cartridges 66, each of which including a set of nozzles, are illustrated in FIG. 1. The configuration of the sets of nozzles, examples of which is illustrated in FIGS. 1, 3, 4 and 14, are discussed on page 10, lines 18 *et seq.*, page 12, lines 7-34, the paragraph bridging pages 22 and 23, and page 23, lines 13 *et seq.* Applicants respectfully submit that sets of nozzles are shown in the drawings, as originally filed.

With liquid aspiration and, in particular, an egress aperture extending radially outwardly from the axis of rotation, Applicants respectfully submit that such egress apertures are shown. *See, e.g.,* FIGS. 12a, 12b and 13. While the apertures are oriented up-and-down in the figures, one would appreciate that the centrifugal forces represented by arrows CF and EL (FIGS. 11b, 11d, and 12b) represent forces developed while rotor 46 orbits well 41 about axis of rotation 51. Moreover, the specification specifically sets forth the structure and operation of claimed apparatus. Rotor 47 spins about axis of rotation 51. *See* FIG. 2; claim 32. Microtiter plate 42 is mounted on rotor 47 to spin about axis of rotation 51. *See* FIG. 2; claim 53. Wells 41, which are located in microtiter plate 42, similarly spin about the axis of rotation 51. *See* FIG. 2; claim 53. Thus, one would understand that arrows CF and EL are actually directed radially outward from the axis of rotation. Similarly, egress apertures 129, which extend parallel to arrows CF and EL, are also directed radially outward from the axis of rotation 51.

As for the valve and electric solenoid valves, Applicant notes that electric solenoid valves are shown FIG. 14 and discussed on page 26, lines 22 *et seq.* Furthermore, an electric solenoid valve which may be used in the reagent dispenser head is illustrated in FIGS. 7a and 7b. The actual construction of the valves are not illustrated, however, the actual construction of the valves is not claimed and thus does not require illustration.